AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-98. (Canceled)

99. (Currently amended) A method of predicting survival outcome of an individual suffering from ~~severe~~ mild congestive heart failure, wherein ~~severe~~ mild congestive heart failure is defined as NYHA class ~~III-IV~~ I-II, said method comprising:

> a) determining as a first marker a level of ~~Big ET-I (1-38) in the individual; and~~
>
> ~~b) determining as a second marker a level of~~ N-proANP (1-98) in the individual,
>
> b) determining as a second marker a level of BNP, N-proBNP or Big ET-1 (1-38) in the individual;
>
> c) comparing the level of the first and second markers to cutoff levels of these markers in age matched normal individuals, said cut-off levels distinguishing between high, intermediate and low survival rate due to cardiovascular cause,

wherein likelihood of death from cardiovascular cause is greatest when said individual has first and second marker levels that are both greater than a first cutoff level for the first marker and a second cutoff level for the second marker, likelihood of death from cardiovascular cause is least when said individual has first and second marker levels that are both less than the first and second cutoff levels, and likelihood of death from cardiovascular cause is intermediate when said individual has the first marker level greater than the first cutoff level and the second marker level less than the second cutoff level or the first marker level less than the first cutoff level and the second marker level greater than the second cutoff level, wherein the cutoff level of ~~Big ET-I (1-38) is about 2.4-5.0 fold a normal level for Big ET-I (1-38), the cutoff level of~~ N-proANP (1-98) is about ~~3.3-4.4~~ 1.7-3.3 fold a normal level for N-proANP (1-98) ~~and,~~ the cutoff level of __BNP or N-proBNP__ ~~NproANP (68-98) fragment~~ is about ~~8.5-10.8~~ 1.3-7 fold a normal level for __BNP or N-proBNP__ ~~NproANP (68-98) fragment__ and the cutoff level of Big ET-I (1-38) is about 1.6-2.4 fold a normal level for Big ET-I (1-38).

100. (Currently amended) The method of claim 99, wherein ~~said cutoff level of Big ET-I (1-38)~~the second marker is BNP and the cutoff level is about ~~3.5-5.0~~2.6-7 fold a normal level for ~~Big ET-I (1-38)~~BNP.

101. (Currently amended) The method of claim 99, wherein said cutoff level of Big ET-I (1-38) is about ~~4.1~~2 fold a normal level for Big ET-I (1-38).

102. (Currently amended) The method of claim 99, wherein said cutoff level of N-proANP (1-98) is about ~~3.8~~1.9 fold a normal level for N-proANP (1-98).

103. (Canceled)

104. (Currently amended) The method of claim 99, wherein when said level of ~~Big ET-I (1-38)~~ ~~and either~~ N-proANP (1-98) is above the cutoff level and said level of BNP is below the cutoff level by IRMA assay or said level of N-proANP (6~~8~~1-98) ~~fragment~~is below the cutoff level and said level of BNP is above the cutoff level by IRMA assay~~are both below the cutoff level~~, the individual's ~~50~~75% survival estimate for death from cardiovascular cause is ~~at least~~about ~~45~~70 months.

105. (Currently amended) The method of claim 99, wherein ~~when~~ said level of ~~Big ET-I (1-38)~~N-proANP (1-98) and ~~either N-proANP (1-98)~~BNP ~~or N-proANP (68-98) fragment~~ are both below the cutoff level, the individual's ~~50~~75% survival ~~outcome~~ estimate for death by cardiovascular cause is at least about ~~75~~91 months.

106. (Currently amended) The method of claim 99, wherein when said level of N-proANP (1-98) is above the cutoff level and said level of BNP by IRMA assay is above the cutoff level,~~Big ET-I (1-38) and either N-proANP (1-98) or N-proANP (68-98) fragment are both below the cutoff level~~, the individual's ~~50~~75% survival ~~outcome~~estimate for death by cardiovascular cause is ~~at least~~about ~~9~~1-42 months.

107. (Currently amended) The method of claim 99, wherein when said level of <u>N-proANP (1-98) is above the cutoff level and said level of BNP by RIA is below the cutoff level</u>~~Big ET-I (1-38) and either N-proANP (1-98) or N-proANP (68-98) fragment are both higher than the cutoff level~~, the individual's ~~50~~<u>75</u>% survival ~~outcome~~ <u>estimate</u> for death by cardiovascular cause is about ~~5.5~~<u>59</u> months.

107. (New) The method of claim 99, wherein when said level of N-proANP (1-98) is above the cutoff level and said level of BNP by RIA is above the cutoff level, the individual's 75% survival estimate for death by cardiovascular cause is about 35 months.

108. (New) The method of claim 99, wherein when said level of N-proANP (1-98) is below the cutoff level and said level of Big ET-1 is below the cutoff level, the individual's 75% survival estimate for death by cardiovascular cause is at least 91 months.

109 (New) The method of claim 99, wherein when said level of N-proANP (1-98) is above the cutoff level and said level of Big ET-1 is below the cutoff level or said level of N-proANP (1-98) is below the cutoff level and said level of Big ET-1 is above the cutoff level, the individual's 75% survival estimate for death from cardiovascular cause is about 41 months.

110. (New) The method of claim 99, wherein when said level of N-proANP (1-98) is above the cutoff level and said level of Big ET-1 is above the cutoff level, the individual's 75% survival estimate for death by cardiovascular cause is 40 months.

111. (New) The method of claim 99, wherein when said level of N-proANP (1-98) is below the cutoff level and said level of Big ET-1 is below the cutoff level, the individual's 75% survival estimate for death by cardiovascular cause is at least about 91 months.

112. (New) The method of claim 99, wherein when said level of N-proANP (1-98) is below the cutoff level and said level of N-proBNP is below the cutoff level, the individual's 75% survival estimate for death by cardiovascular cause is at least about 91 months.

113. (New) The method of claim 99, wherein when said level of N-proANP (1-98) is above the cutoff level and said level of N-proBNP is below the cutoff level or said level of N-proANP (1-98) is below the cutoff level and said level of N-proBNP is above the cutoff level, the individual's 75% survival estimate for death by cardiovascular cause is about 50 months.

114. (New) The method of claim 99, wherein when said level of N-proANP (1-98) is above the cutoff level and said level of N-proBNP is above the cutoff level, the individual's 75% survival estimate for death by cardiovascular cause is about 40 months.

115. The method of claim 99, wherein the second marker is BNP and the cutoff level is 4.4-5.7 fold a normal level for BNP.

116. (New) The method of claim 99, wherein the second marker is N-proBNP and the cutoff level is 1.3-1.8 fold the normal level for N-proBNP.

117. (New) The method of claim 99, wherein the second marker is Big ET-1 (1-38).